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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SCOM, US, FR, BL, GE
SUBJECT: FURTHER REPORTS OF US LINKS TO NAZI WAR CRIMINAL
- KLAUS BARBIE
REFS: (A) STATE 038466, (B) PARIS 4737
1. (C ENTIRE TEXT)
2. ACTION REQUEST -- SEE FINAL PARAGRAPH.
3. THE KLAUS BARBIE AFFAIR CONTINUES TO EXCITE HEAVY
MEDIA COVERAGE IN FRANCE. NEW ALLEGATIONS OF AMERICAN
"PROTECTION" OF BARBIE FROM 1945 TO 1951 HAVE EMERGED
AND ARE CERTAIN TO FUEL THE CONTROVERSY OVER HOW BARBIE
MANAGED FOR SO MANY YEARS TO EVADE CAPTURE AND PROSECU-
TION. SINCE BARBIE'S TRIAL MAY BE TELEVISED, AND GIVEN
THE CONTINUING INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS CASE, WE
CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT PAST US ACTIONS WILL
COME UNDER INCREASINGLY CLOSE AND CRITICAL SCRUTINY.
PRESS GUIDANCE HITHERTO DEVELOPED (REFTEL A) WILL BE
INADEQUATE IF THIS INQUIRY GAINS MOMENTUM, AND WE URGE
DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE, ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, A MORE

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CREDIBLE LINE OF DEFENSE ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE. FBIS IS TRANSMITTING THE FULL TEXT (ENGLISH TRANSLATION) OF A FEBRUARY 16 LE MONDE ARTICLE WHICH, RELYING ON NUMEROUS FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, PRESENTS A DAMNING AND OSTENSIBLY AUTHORITATIVE PICTURE OF US COMPLI-
CITY IN BARBIE'S DISSIMULATION AND EVENTUAL ESCAPE FROM EUROPE.

4. DETAILED LE MONDE ARTICLE BY RESEARCHER/LAWYER SERGE KLARSFELD ON FEBRUARY 16 PRESENTS THE MOST COMPLETE AND DAMAGING ACCOUNT BY FAR OF THE ALLEGED US ROLE IN PROTECTING BARBIE AFTER WORLD WAR TWO AND IN ARRANGING HIS FLIGHT TO SOUTH AMERICA. "FOR THE FIRST TIME", COMMENTS THE FRONT PAGE OF LE MONDE, "THE FACTS OF US PROTECTION OF BARBIE ARE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED". DRAWING UPON MEMORANDA AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM MILITARY, JUDICIAL AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE FILES, KLARSFELD RECONSTRUCTS A NARRATIVE OF REPEATED FRENCH EFFORTS BETWEEN 1948 AND 1951 TO OBTAIN CUSTODY OF BARBIE FROM AMERICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY WHO WERE UNWILLING TO COOPERATE FOR "REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY". SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KLARSFELD REPORT:

- -- FRENCH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN BARBIE'S EXTRADITION WERE FRUSTRATED BY THE REFUSAL OF US MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY TO ISSUE THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCE SHOWING THAT BARBIE WAS IN THE US OCCUPATION ZONE.

- -- DEMARCHES BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, IN 1949 AND 1951, MET WITH STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES WHICH DISAVOWED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF BARBIE'S WHEREABOUTS AND SUGGESTED THE FRENCH DEAL WITH AMERICAN MILITARY IN GERMANY.

- -- GERMAN INVESTIGATORS WERE ALSO CONVINCED THAT BARBIE WAS COLLABORATING WITH AND BEING PROTECTED BY AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE IN THE POST-WAR YEARS.

- -- BARBIE WORKED FOR THE US UNDER VARIOUS ALIASES-- SPEHR, BEHREND, MERTENS, HOLZER -- AND HIS SUPERIOR WAS NAMED MAJOR LARSEN. US AUTHORITIES IN MUNICH PROVIDED BARBIE WITH A TEMPORARY TRAVEL DOCUMENT (N. 0121454) ON FEBRUARY 21, 1951 UNDER THE NAME OF KLAUS ALTMAN. ON MARCH 16, 1951, BARBIE RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN GENOA A TRAVEL DOCUMENT (NUMBER 18573) WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO LEAVE FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

5. LENDING ADDITIONAL WEIGHT TO THE KLARSFELD REPORT IS HIS PUBLICATION OF A DIRECTIVE FROM THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, DATED NOVEMBER 7, 1963 AND LABELED "SECRET-CONFIDENTIAL" WHICH REVEALS THAT GERMAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WERE CONVINCED OF BARBIE'S TIES TO US INTELLIGENCE. ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF RESEARCH ON NAZI WAR CRIMES (LUDWIGSBURG):

- -- BARBIE "WAS UTILIZED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR BY AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WHO RE-LOCATED AND PROTECTED HIM IN MUNICH UNDER THE COVER OF BEING A BUSINESSMAN."

- -- BARBIE RESIDED IN BOLIVIA STARTING IN 1961 OR 1962.

- -- BARBIE MAY BE WORKING UNDER A "COVER EMPLOY" FOR AMERICAN AND GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (THE CIA AND THE BND).

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THE FRENCH DIRECTIVE REQUESTS, INTER ALIA, THAT FRENCH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES INVESTIGATE BARBIE'S "CERTAIN MANIPULATION BY THE CIA AND BND" IN LA PAZ.

6. COMMENT: MUCH OF KLARSFELD'S EVIDENCE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL (I.E. BASED ON THE LOGICAL DEDUCTIONS OF NUMEROUS, WELL-PLACED FRENCH AND GERMAN OFFICIAL SOURCES.) HOWEVER, HIS METICULOUS ASSEMBLY OF DATA AND THE CALM, JURISPRUDENTIAL TONE OF THE REPORT WILL LEAVE FEW READERS WITH ANY DOUBTS ABOUT US EFFORTS TO SHIELD BARBIE. THE REPORT IN PARAGRAPH 4 IS THE MOST PRECISE CHARGE SO FAR REGARDING BARBIE'S ALLEGEDLY SERVING THE US IN BOLIVIA, ALTHOUGH IT FALLS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF KLARSFELD'S REPORT. WERE BARBIE LESS NOTORIOUS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HIS ALLEGED LINKS TO THE US WOULD AROUSE MUCH CONTROVERSY HERE. BUT THE FACT THAT ALL REPORTS DEPICT BARBIE AS AN UNREPENTANT SADIST WHOSE CRIMES WERE WIDESPREAD AND HIDEOUS EVEN BY GESTAPO STANDARDS MEANS THAT QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US COULD POSE SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY ASKS DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE FACTS OF THE BARBIE CASE AND PROVIDE UPDATED GUIDANCE WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO DEFUSE POTENTIALLY HOSTILE QUESTIONING IN, IF POSSIBLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD AND FACTUAL FASHION. GALBRAITH

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